the State Governments have taken a number of steps to help the weavers in the three affected districts of Andhra Pradesh viz., Krishma, Prakasam and Guntur. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has agreed to provide production oriented consumption loan through Bank to the affected weavers at Rs. 1000/- per family repayable in 20 monthly instalments with a moratorium of 4 months at 11.5% interest per annum. The State Government also proposes to organise a relief of Rs. 5000/- per family to the surviving members of weavers through local organisations. Sufficient amounts have been released by the Central Government for providing sustained employment to affected weavers under the janata production programme, even though an overall cut in janata production programme has been imposed throughout the country. Arrangements for improved yarn supply at pre-budget prices have been tied up through State agencies and National Handloom Development Corporation.

Legal Aid Scheme for the Poor

*126. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the working of legal aid scheme for the poor;

(b) if so, the shortcomings noted in the working of the scheme; and

(c) the reasons for the shortcomings and the action taken to remove the same?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY): (a) to (c). Legal Aid Programmes are organised by the State Legal Aid & Advice Boards and District Legal Aid Committees etc., whose working is overseen by the Chief Justices of the respective State High Court and Judges of the High Court besides senior Judicial Officers in the State, who are actively associated with the State Boards and District Committees. Further, such programmes, particularly Lok Adalats, are often attended by the Chief Justice of India in his capacity as Patron-in Chief CILAS and Executive Chairman, CILAS, who is a sitting Judge of the Supreme Court. The working of the Legal Aid Programme is reviewed as and when meetings of the Members of the Committee for Developmenting Legal Aid Schemes (CILAS) are held. No shortcomings on the Legal Aid Programmes have been brought to the notice of the Government.

Foreign Exchange Immunity Scheme

*127. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Foreign Exchange Immunity Scheme formulated by the Reserve Bank of India has given rise to large scale hawala transactions and under-invoicing of exports; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to stop misuse of the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The Enforcement Directorate and the Central Board of Direct Taxes have informed that there is no indication that the Foreign Exchange (Immunities) Scheme formulated by the Reserve Bank of India had given rise to a large scale hawala transactions and under invoicing of exports.

(b) Does not arise.

Smuggling of Electronic Items

*128. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether smuggling of electronic items such as V.C.Rs. V.C.Ps. etc. is on the increase;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the countries from where such electronic items are being smuggled; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check the smuggling of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Available reports indicate that electronic goods such as video cassette recorders and video cassette players, etc., continue to be sensitive to smuggling into India. The value of seizures of electronic goods for the last four years as given in the Table below, however, show an increasing trend. A substantial part of this value of seizures in 1991 is contributed by computerparts and accessories and partly by video cassettee players and video cassette recorders.

Seizures of Electronic Goods

(*Value in Rs. lakhs*)

1988	1989	1990	1991 (till mid-November)
2424	2792	2945	4980 (provisional)

(b) Electronic goods of Japanese origin continue to be favoured for smuggling into India by smuggling syndicates operating from Dubai, Hong Kong and Singapore.

(c) The anti-smuggling agencies are on the alert to check the smuggling of these items. The emerging trends and new modus operandi are being studied and disseminated to the field formations for obtaining better results. close co-ordination is also being maintained between all the agencies concerned with the detection and prevention of smuggling.

Disinvestment in Public Sector Undertakings

*129. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has since finalised any scheme for disinvestment in Public Sector Undertakings as one of the measures for mobilisation of resources; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) As announced in the Budget Speech, Government have decided to disinvest part of the equity in selected public sector undertakings.

(b) The details of the scheme are under finalisation.

Accidents on National Highways

*130. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of road accidents on National Highways during the last three years and the extent of loss of public property;

(b) whether most of accidents occurred due to the absence of dividers on the roads;